

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] According to one embodiment of the invention, the crown of the furnace is made from a foamed refractory material having a network of interconnected pores. Other portions of the furnace may also be manufactured using foamed refractories. As discussed above, the conventional method of making zircon bricks used to make the crown and other portions of the furnace has several limitations. Among the limitations of the conventional method, which involves mixing a burnout material in the batch and burning the burnout material off during sintering of the brick, produces a brick that is porous, but the pores are randomly distributed and not interconnected through the brick. In addition, it is difficult to produce a brick having a pore surface area ~~less~~ greater than $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or bricks having a porosity greater than 50%. In addition, the density of zircon bricks produced by the conventional method typically have a density greater than 2 g/cm^3 .